



C H S



January, 1947

25c

The BANDWAGON

The BANDWAGON
Official Publication of C.H.S.

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Jan. 1947

EDITOR-VAN MATRE

25¢

A TOUR WITH THE BARNUM & BAILEY GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH SEASON 1913
C.E. DUBLE

I have before me the Official Route Sheet season 1913 of the Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth. Today it is a souvenir of other circus days. Season opened at the old Madison Square Garden, N.Y. Mar. 22 to Apr. 19. Needless to say, great crowds attended during the full engagement as they still do each spring. The first stand under canvas was Brooklyn, a full week at 5th Ave. & 3rd St. The entire spread of new canvas with the immense big top, 6 poles, with 3 rings and 2 elevated stages, new side show banners, and all wagons, and cages fresh from the hands of the artists and painters presented a great flash on the lot. The grand glittering street parade-A Princely Presentation of Pompous Pageantry rolled over the streets of Brooklyn the morning of opening day and was witnessed by countless thousands. The famous Two Hemisphere Bandwagon with 12 horse team of sleek dapple greys of course headed the parade and driven by Jim Thomas. Ten years previous this wagon first appeared in the Barnum & Bailey parades with the 40 horse team driven by Jake Posey. Other elaborate wagons that were in this parade include EUROPE-ASIA-AFRICA-AMERICA-GOLDEN AGE OF CHIVALRY-FUNNY FOLKS-TWO JESTERS. In the words of the press agent, a solid mile of gold and glitter. Performance opened with the spec "CLEOPATRA" with 1250 people taking part along with 700 horses, elephants, camels and 75 ballet girls. This spec lasted 20 minutes. The music was selected and arranged by Faltis Effendi a musician of Ned Brills Concert Band.

The program included such fine acts as the Neopolitian Troupe a double trapeze act, the Viennese Troupe of 10 aerialists, the DeKoes Troupe of acrobats, the Schiavoni Troupe a posturing act, the famous Ice-lander Troupe, the Gilmer Wonders making their first appearance in U.S., Maximo on the high wire, Fred Derrick and Orrin and Victoria Davenport the celebrated equestrians, Mikado Royal Jap Athletes. Performance ended with the Hippodrome races, Roman riding, Jockey and the 4 horse chariot races. The old style after show concert was in vogue at that date consisting of singing, dancing, juggling and comedy acts. Bert Rutherford was producing clown and his wife Lottie played a sax solo with the big show band. Lew Graham was side show manager and made all the announcements in big show. The Ringling Bros. living at that time were Al. R.; H. R.; Alf T.; Ches. and John. Barnum & Bailey had 88 cars and the Ringlings had 86. The combined titles were first used for the season of 1919. Ned Brill was bandmaster from 1911 to 1916. The air calliope first came into use that year and only the Barnum & Bailey show and the Ringling Bros. Show used them. Matt Meeker played it for the 1913 season. In parade they also used a ladies band and a mounted band dressed as Hussars, for mounts they rode the big dapple grey baggage stock.

Following Brooklyn they played all the important cities in the East and Middle West. St. Louis was a week stand. From Jun. 11 to July 1 they were in Canada. Toronto and Montreal were 2 day stands. Late in Jul. they were as far west as the Dakotas. Labor Day found the show at Hannibal, Mo. Show did not go into Tex. but did go into Okla. At Memphis, Tenn. great crowds attended. Closed the season at Louisville, Ky. Mon. Nov. 3 after being out 7 months and returned to winter quarters at Bridgeport, Conn. Number of stands 153, states 25, 3 provinces of Canada. No parades called off and every performance on time.-----

THE BANDWAGON

An Open Letter To The Members Of "The Circus Historical Society"
By Your New President
BETTE LEONARD

First I want to wish each and every one of you A HAPPY NEW YEAR and to ask you all to help me in making our club a club to be proud of. This is the time of year that we should forget our differences, start the new year out right with a resolution to all work together, for that is my slogan, a club for the members not just a few. I want any issue to be settled by the members with a general vote, and now here is what we have to face. As you know no club can be run without cash especially when we edit and print a paper and I understand that at present we only have enough in the treasury to print two more issues. We have at present 290 members of which only 128 have paid their dues, now if you are one of these members that have overlooked paying your dues send them in at once to JOHN J CROWLEY 7 Ninth St. Cambridge, Mass.

Now in keeping with my policy of consulting the members wishes I have wrote the Board of Directors asking them to select a person they consider competent for Vice President, and also to be Editor of the BANDWAGON, personally I think that Mr. VAN MATRE has done a fine job. The BANDWAGON has been printed each month and has been out on time, the only complaint I have ever heard was the lack of a picture with each issue, however the BANDWAGON can not be printed with a cover and cut and include a picture, so I am also going to ask you to vote on that subject. Every one of us can afford a penny post card so either cut out the ballot below or make a duplicate and mail it to our election Comm. BILL GREEN 312 North C St. Washington, Kansas.

Mail them as soon as you read this issue of BANDWAGON, BUT BE SURE AND MAIL YOUR VOTE, DON'T LEAVE IT UP TO JUST A FEW TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

BETTE LEONARD
President of CHS

VOTE FOR ONE

BANDWAGON as it is, with a cover II I

BANDWAGON without a cover but with a photo I I

Send your vote on the above to Bill Green 312 North C Washington, Kan.

Dad White is leaving Fredonia, Kansas, for San Diego, Calif. on the 8th of Jan. You can get in touch with him by writing to the St. Elmo Hotel.

Bet Leonard entertained Joe and Eva Lewis, Bert and Corrine De Aro, Buck Reiger and wife Tav for Thanksgiving dinner.

Walter L. Main Circus opened its season Apr. 16, 1921 under management of Andrew Downie (F.A. Norton)

The Campbell, Bailey & Hutchinson Combined Circus and Wild West opened early in Apr. 1921 at Samson, Ala. (F.A. Norton)

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

YOUR CHOICE OF 4 SPARKS 1946 photos (8x10); 4 JAMES M COLE 1946 (8x10) or 2 of each for \$1.25 Here you are 8x10 photos at slightly more than post card size price. Nice for the wall of your circus room.

VAN MATRE

3328 H St.

Phila. Pa.

The BANDWAGON

ROUTE HOWE'S GREAT LONDON SHOWS Season 1920
H. POWERS

Apr.	24	Huntington, Ind.	Apr.	26	Kenton, Ohio
	27	Ashland, Ohio		28	Barberton, Ohio
	29	Salem, "		30	Dover, "
May	1	Mt. Vernon "	May	3	Malta "
	4	Cambridge "		5	Caldwell "
	6	Marietta "		7	Wellston "
	8	Portsmouth, Ohio		10	Circleville "
	11	Cadiz "		12	East Liverpool, Ohio
	13	Carnegie, Penna.		14	Homestead, Penna.
	15	Vandergrift, Pa.		17	Terentum "
	18	Ford City "		19	Brookville "
	20	St. Marys "		21	Johnsonburg "
	22	Towanda, N.Y.		24	Willand, Ont. Canada
	25	St. Catherine, Ont. Canada		26	Dunnville, Ont. Canada
	27	Tilsonburg " "		28	Goderich " "
	29	Kincardine " "		31	Owen Sound " "
Jun.	1	Hanover " "	Jun.	2	Galt " "
	3	Oshawa " "		4	Cobourg " "
	5	Bancroft " "		7	Napanee " "
	8	Brockville " "		9	Valley Field, Quebec
	10	Lachine, Quebec		11	Victoriaville "
	12	Levis "		14	Grand Falls, N.B.
	15	Chipman, N.B.		16	Blacksville, N.B.
	17	Chatham, N.B.		18	Rogersville, N.B.
	19	Sackville, N.B.		21	New Waterford, N.S.
	22	Glace Bay, N.S.		23	Sydney Mines, N.S.
	24	Antigonish, N.S.		25	Pictou, N.S.
	26	Oxford, N.S.		28	Spring Hill, N.S.
	29	Dorchester, N.B.		30	Sussex, N.B.
Jul.	1	St. John, N.B.	Jul.	2	St. Stephen, N.B.
	3	Princeton, Maine		5	Eastport, Maine
	6	Machias "		7	Ellsworth "
	8	Augusta "		9	Bath "
	10	Rockland "		12	Biddleford "
	13	Portsmouth, N.H.		14	Haverhille, Mass.
	15	Greenfield, Mass.		16	Holyoke "
	17	Adams "		19	Hudson, N.Y.
	20	Kingston, N.Y.		21	Middletown, N.Y.
	22	Liberty, N.Y.		23	Carbondale, Pa.
	24	Stroudsburg, Pa.		26	Norristown, Pa.
	27	Coatesville "		28	Columbia "
	29	Carlisle "		30	Chambersburg, Pa.
	31	Martinsburg, W. Va.	Aug.	2	Washington, Pa.
Aug.	3	Barnesville, Ohio		4	Utica, Ohio
	5	Tiffin "		6	Bowling Green, Ohio
	7	Wapekoneta "		9	Troy "
	10	New Castle, Ind.		11	Martinsville, Ind.
	12	Bicknell "		13	Harrisburg, Ill.
	14	Cairo, Ill.		16	Union City, Tenn.
	17	Jackson, Tenn.		18	Humboldt "
	19	Paris "		20	Milan "
	21	Brownsville, Tenn.		23	Marianne, Ark.
	24	Forrest City, Ark.		25	Wynne "
	26	Bald Knob "		27	Walnut Ridge, Ark.

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HOWE'S	ROUTE	(CONT)
Aug. 28 Marked Tree, Ark.	Aug. 30 Osceola, Ark.	
31 Blytheville, "	Sep. 1 Caruthersville, Mo.	
Sep. 2 Kennett, Mo.	3 Bloomfield "	
4 Cape Girardeau, Mo.	6 Charleston, "	
7 Dexter "	8 New Madrid "	
9 Malden "	10 Pategould, Ark.	
11 Brinkley, Ark.	13 Stuttgart "	
14 Fordyce "	15 Stamps "	
16 Naples, Tex.	17 Gilmer, Tex.	
18 Athens "	20 Hubbard "	
21 McGregor, Tex.	22 Cameron "	
23 Caldwell "	24 Eagle Lake, Tex.	
25 Bay City "	27 Brownsville "	
28 McAllen "	29 Mercedes "	
30 Harlinger "	Oct. 1 Kingsville "	
Oct. 2 Corpus Christi, Tex.	4 Wharton "	
5 Cleveland "	6 Nacogdoches, Tex.	
7 Timpson "	8 Lufkin "	
9 Rusk "	11 Carthage "	
12 Center "	13 Kirbyville "	
14 Orange "	15 Jennings, La.	
16 New Ibera, La.	18 Houma "	

This is the end of route card #24. The season is NOT complete, perhaps some member can furnish the rest of the season for us.

MAIN'S ADVANCE MAN STYMIED RINGLING W. L. MAIN

A 35 year old circus feud with a newspaper angle ended here recently. James A. Haley, president of R. B. B. Circus, and Charles W. Riffe, former Big Tent press agent, shook hands and agreed the fuss was over.

In 1894 at Fort Plain, N. Y. the Ringling Show cancelled its scheduled performance because the town's newspapers refused to print advertisements or readers about that circus. Later, it was learned, Rife, then agent for the Walter L. Main Circus, had contracted with the papers that no other circus was to be mentioned while his own ads were running.

In an editorial, Sept. 4, 1894, the Fort Plain Standard apologized by explaining that an exceedingly clever and smooth young man by the name of Chas. W. Rife had maneuvered this and other newspapers to accept a contract detrimental to Ringling's when they had no knowledge of the coming of another circus.

At his reunion with Haley, the press agent, long retired and now living in Cincinnati, said he was glad that's off my chest, and I hope we can be good friends. In an aside to an Enquirer's reporter, he added, Hell, I'm thru, anyway.

Miss Irene Lewis was married to Mr. Walter Tyson at Guelph, Ont. Canada on Thursday, Dec. 19th, 1946.

An invitation is being extended to the CHS to consider SOUTH BEND, Ind. as the next meeting place of the National Convention. This invitation is also being extended to CMBOA & CFA so that all 3 can be held at the same time. It will be on the COLE BROS. CIRCUS, for 2 days, Fri. & Sat. Dr. H. Powers, Pres. Kitty Clark Tent #43 CFA.

The BANDWAGON

RINGLING STAR HOPES TO PERFORM HIS GREATEST FEAT -A.DODGE-

On a Thur.in Dec. there appeared in the office of our city mayor a well known R.B.B.B.Circus star of the high wire known as "The GREAT ARTURO" his real name being Arthur Trostl.His mission as he stated to a reporter later was to fulfill a very early ambition that of walking across the Niagara gorge on a tight rope.As a stunt of this kind or any other kind is frowned upon by city officials both on this side and the Canadian side of the Niagara river the Great Arturo was left with a decision as just what to do next.He learned however that if he could lease land or buy land from property owners on each side of the river he probably could carry out his life time ambition,the act being set for May or June.Arturo was with R.B.B.B.Circus from 1935 to 1941.Arturo claims that he is the fifth generation of a family of tight rope walkers.He comes from Tampa,Florida where he plans to begin training sometime in Feb.for his great feat.He was born 35 years ago in a small town near Vienna,Austria.Past tight rope walkers who have made Niagara Falls their background as a setting for their acts are:-

BLONDIN,1859,1860

LESLIE, 1865

BALLENI,1873

PEER, 1887

DIXON, 1890

McDONELL,1893

FARINI,1860

Prof.JENKINS,1869

SPELTERINI,1876

Prof.De LEON,1887

CALVERLEY,1892,1893

HARDY,1896

Twelve such artists have made it successfully,Jenkins did it on a velocipede and Spelterini was a woman.In June 1910 Oscar Williams better known as "the GREAT HOUNDIN" attempted to cross on a slackwire but it became so slack that he could go neither forward or backward and was forced to slide down a rope to the Maid of the Mist boat below.In 1868 Prof.Murphy walked a tight rope across Falls street the rope being stretched between two buildings.

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HOWE'S GREAT LONDON SHOWS opened the 1921 season in Apr.at Albuquerque, New Mexico.They entered Canada at Cranbrook,British.Columbia on May 23 for a 4 wk. tour.Show was owned by Mugivan,Ballard & Bowers.Dan Odom was manager and Bert Rutherford general agent.On Sept.6 they made a record at Goldsboro,N.C.in getting the Big Top up and guyed out exactly 47 minutes after the first wagon rolled on the lot.In 1922 on May 20 they enlarged while on the road from 10 to 25 cars.(F.A.Norton)
RICHARDS & SONS CIRCUS opened at Bandera,Tex.Apr.1,1921 and was moving on 6 trucks and 3 touring cars.They closed the season at Centerport, Tex.Nov.20.(F.A.Norton)

